

- Higher rates of positive tests are found for alcohol, heroin, barbiturates, and Valium (benzodiazepine) in Knoxville/Knox County and non-urban sites than in Nashville or Memphis. On the other hand, there are significantly higher rates of positive tests for marijuana in Memphis than in Nashville or Knoxville/Knox County and non-urban sites. Finally, positive tests for cocaine are much more prevalent in Memphis and Nashville than in Knoxville/Knox County and non-urban areas.
- Marijuana appears to be most popular drug among younger arrestees. Nearly two thirds (62%) of younger arrestees test positive for marijuana. Although the proportion of arrestees testing positive for marijuana is quite high at every age, this proportion declines steadily with age to 14% among those aged 40 and over. The proportion of arrestees testing positive for alcohol increases steadily with age, rising from 17% among arrestees under 20 to 67% among arrestees 40 and older. The proportion of adult arrestees testing positive for cocaine and crack peaks at 44% in the age range 30-34 and 40% in the 35-39 age range, and falls precipitously to 17% among those 40 and older.
- Within the SANTA sample, there are clearly significant racial differentials in the substances for which arrestees test positive. Non-whites are more likely than whites to test positive for marijuana and cocaine. In fact, the proportion of non-whites testing positive for cocaine (44%) is nearly three times the proportion of whites (17%) testing positive for cocaine. Whites are more likely than non-whites to test positive for alcohol (53% versus 35%), heroin (4% versus 1%), barbiturates (5% versus 2%), and Valium (benzodiazepine) (18% versus 1%).
- Significantly higher proportions of male than female arrestees test positive for alcohol (49% versus 31%), marijuana (39% versus 31%), and barbiturates (4% versus 2%). About twice the proportion of female arrestees compared with male arrestees test positive for heroin (5% versus 2%). Also, a greater proportion of sample women than sample men test positive for cocaine (31% versus 28%) and Valium (14% versus 10%).
- Those arrested for violent crimes are more likely than those arrested for property crimes to test positive for alcohol alone or alcohol and drugs in combination.
- Alcohol is the drug most frequently found in the urine/saliva of arrestees whose offenses are violent crimes (42%), while testing positive for marijuana (61%) or cocaine (42%) is highly correlated with drug arrests.